

Corridors:

The International Building Code and International Fire Code have specific requirements for corridor construction, width, and maintenance to ensure safe and efficient building evacuation and navigation during emergencies and everyday use.

The biggest issue that is noted by the Office of the State Fire Marshal staff is the obstruction of the corridors. Fire and building codes are clear.

Obstructions shall not be placed in the required width of a means of egress!!

This includes movable items such as furniture, plants, TV/VCR carts, recycling containers, trash cans, clothing, etc. Even if these items were stored outside of the required corridor width, these items will get pushed and moved during a panic situation and will become tripping hazards.

Additionally, storage of anything in or on stairs and stair landings, which may contribute to a fall of a building occupant, is prohibited.

The following depicts the minimum corridor width that must be maintained clear with absolutely no obstructions:

- Colleges.....3ft 6 in
- K-126 ft
- Existing Healthcare.....4 ft *
- New Healthcare.....8 ft *

* Healthcare facilities that have a corridor width greater than what is required must maintain the entire width unless the width is large enough to accommodate a living/common area (distinctly separated) in the middle. The minimum corridor width must be maintained along all surrounding wall surfaces.

Corridors shall be fire-resistance rated to protect the occupants from other areas of the building while evacuating. The following depicts the minimum rating that must be maintained in the corridors:

- Colleges 1hr (w/o sprinkler system)..... Smoke tight if sprinklered
- K-12 1hr (w/o sprinkler system)..... Smoke tight if sprinklered
- Existing Healthcare..... 1hr (w/o sprinkler system)..... Smoke tight if sprinklered
- New Healthcare..... 1hr (w/o sprinkler system)..... Smoke tight if sprinklered
- Child Care (older than 2.5) 1hr (w/o sprinkler system)..... Smoke tight if sprinklered
- Child Care (younger than 2.5)..... Smoke tight (sprinklered)
- Child Care (Mixed)..... Smoke tight (sprinklered)
- Residential Board & Care (>16) ½ hr (sprinklered)
- Residential Board & Care (<16) 1 hr (sprinklered)